



Voluntary Protection Programs

Robert Stegall



Introduction

- **Voluntary Programs are Voluntary Compliance**
- **Deriving value from effective VPP implementation**



Topics of Discussion

- **Voluntary Programs build trust**
- **Voluntary Programs build compliance**
- **Voluntary Programs build
Competitiveness**



Voluntary Programs Build Trust

■ Opens Communication

- ◆ Inside organization with managers, supervisors and workers**
- ◆ Outside of organization with regulators**

■ Workday IR 50% lower than industrial average

Voluntary Programs Build Compliance

- **Agency representatives observe best practices in Safety & Health which then can be used as a model to share with other employers**
- **Best practices can be used in the development of more effective standards and policies**

Voluntary Programs Build Competitiveness

- **One site had an 89% reduction in workers' compensation costs**
- **Absenteeism dropped 25%**
- **Waste minimization efforts reduced waste outhaul by 45%**

Special Government Employees

- **Sites volunteer their representatives to serve as SGE's on VPP site inspections**
- **SGE's increases the number of people available to OSHA to serve on these reviews, reducing OSHA's costs while increasing the number of recognized models**

Small Businesses

- **VPP, OSHA and the Small Business Administration have a joint program to assist small businesses in applying for participation in the Programs**
- **Cluster mentoring**

Continuous Improvement

- **VPP sites “raise the bar” for each inspection**
- **The company, contractors, employees and neighbors benefit from voluntary compliance based on performance**